

6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT FACILITIES AND PRACTICES

This section briefly summarizes the Radioactive Waste Management Complex (RWMC) as it exists in 1984. A 1934 aerial photograph of the RWMC is shown in Figure 29.

6.1 Site

The RWMC consists of two main areas: the Subsurface Disposal Area, previously known mainly as the Burial Ground, and the Transuranic Storage Area. Within these areas are smaller specialized disposal and storage areas (Figure 30). Solid waste arrives at the RWMC from onsite and offsite and is routed to the different areas depending on its content and packaging. Figure 31 illustrates the origin and final disposition of solid waste at the RWMC including the radioactive solid wastes processed at WERF.

6.1.1 SDA

The Subsurface Disposal Area is a fenced 35.2 ha area devoted primarily to pit, and soil-vault disposal of nontransuranic solid waste. Located within this SDA are the Transuranic Disposal Area (TDA), (also known as Pad A), the soil vault area, the pit area, and many closed pits and trenches.

6.1.2 TSA

The Transuranic Storage Area, a 22.4-ha plot adjacent to the SDA, was used to store TRU waste greater than 10 nCi/g in each container. DOE Order 5820.1, "Management of Transuranic Contaminated Material," dated September 30, 1982, changed the definition of TRU-contaminated material to include alpha-emitting radionuclides of atomic number greater than 92 and half-life greater than 20 years in a concentration greater than 100 nCi/g. Located within this area are the two TSA Pads 1, 2, and 3, the TSA-R pad, and the Intermediate-Level Transuranic Storage Facility, which stores TRU

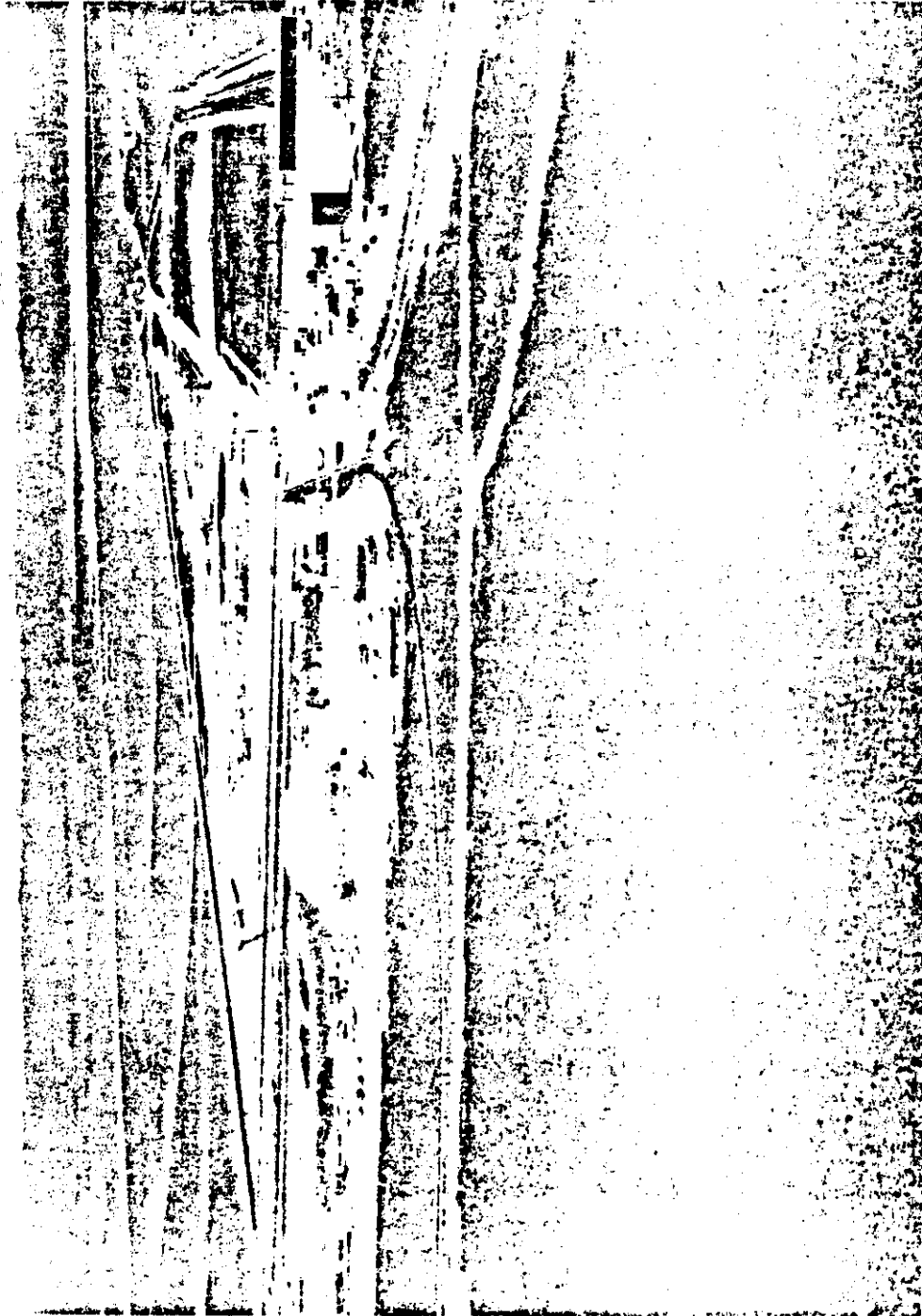


Figure 29. Aerial photograph of the RMMC (Spring 1984).

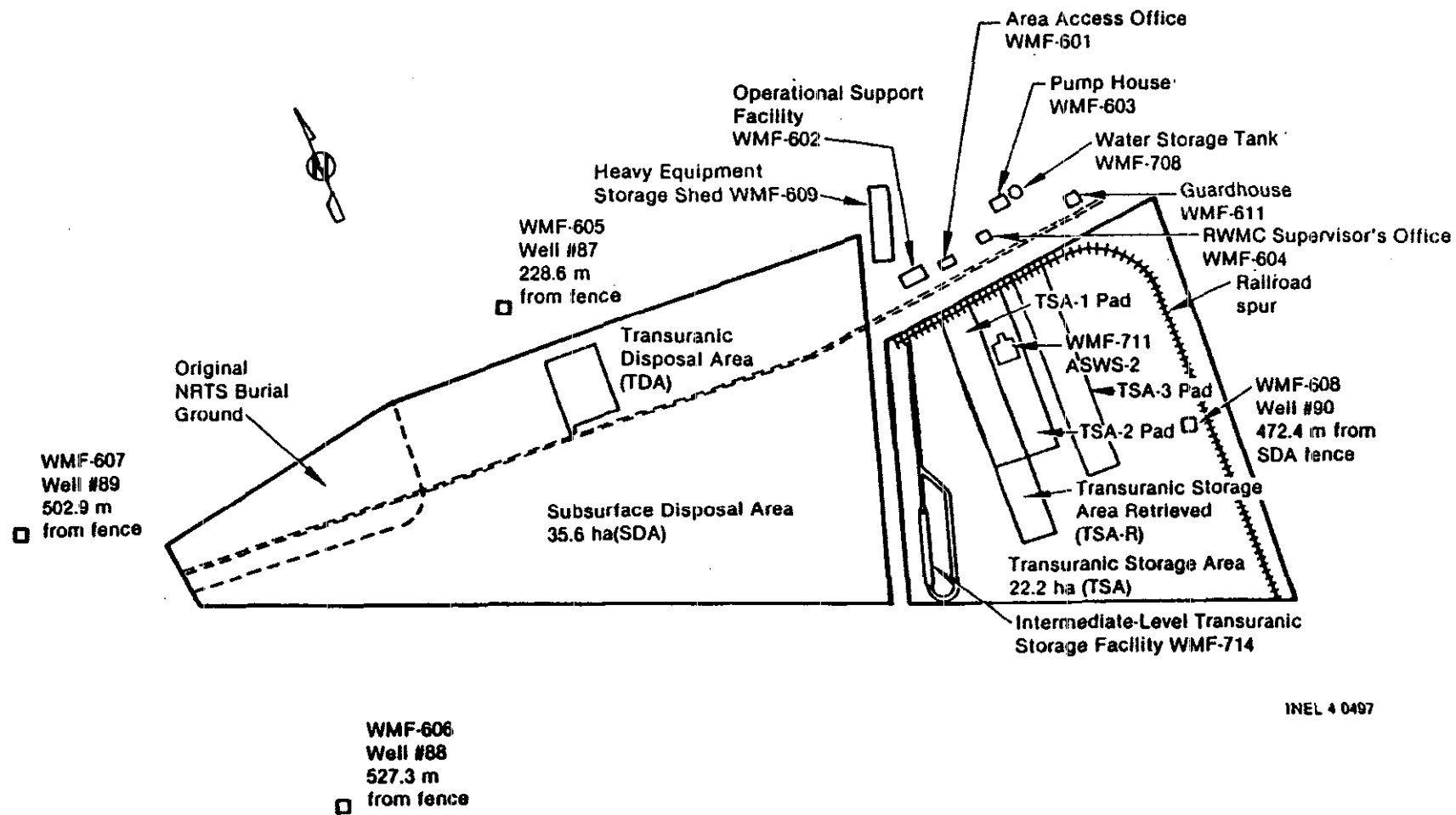
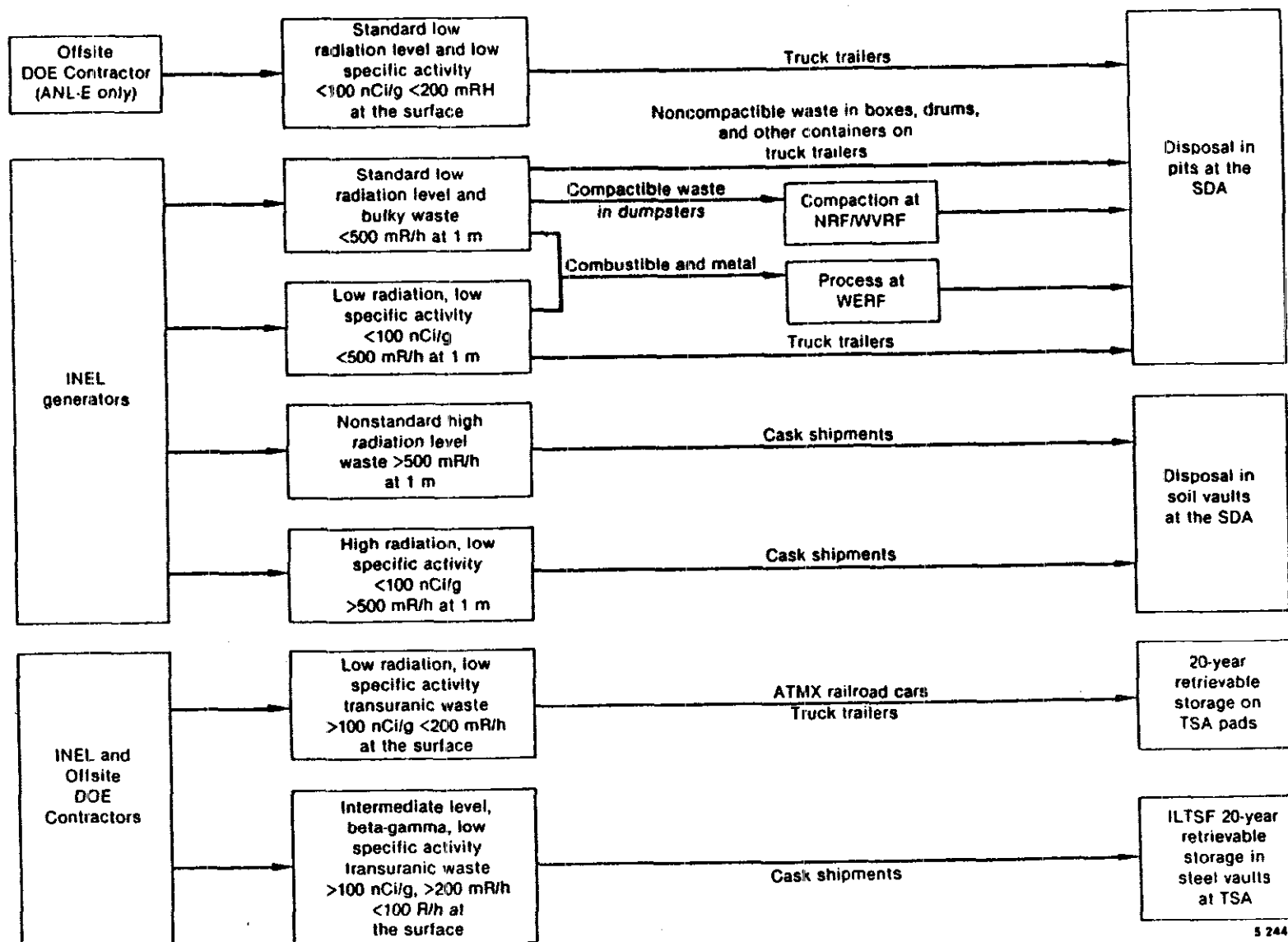


Figure 30. Layout of the RWMC.



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FIGURE 31. FLOW CHART OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSITION AT THE RWMC

waste that is contaminated with activation or fission products and has radiation levels between 200 mR/hr and 100 R/hr at the container surface.¹¹³ The TSA area is designed to provide 20-year interim storage for TRU waste until a federal repository becomes available.

6.2 Support Facilities

The Waste Volume Reduction Facility (WVRF) is located in WMF-601, which also houses the material storage areas, access control office, drum assay facility, and health physics office. The Radiation Analysis Laboratory (RAL) in the eastern bay area of WMF-601 was decommissioned and the area converted to office space. The analytical service is now provided by other INEL Laboratories.

In FY 1982, WMF-602, Decontamination Facility South (DFS), was decommissioned and decontaminated. The building was redesignated the Operational Support Facility (OSF), a multi-purpose building.

The water supply system, located in WMF-603, provides water for the domestic and fire-suppression supply systems at the RWMC. A water supply of 946 250 L is maintained in a storage tank adjacent to WMF-603.

WMF-604 houses personnel rest rooms and change areas, the RWMC supervisor's office area, and the lunchroom for personnel assigned to the RWMC.

WMF-605 through -608 are small enclosures over the monitoring wells adjacent to the RWMC.

WMF-609, the Heavy Equipment Storage Shed (HESS), provides weather protection for most of the mobile equipment used at the RWMC. This building, open on the east side, has dirt floors except the two south bays. These two bays have been enclosed and a concrete floor installed for use as an equipment repair area.

WMF-611, RWMC Guardhouse (Figure 32) was completed in FY 1982. WMF-611 houses Guard Post-301, instrumentation for the motion-detection system in ASWS-2, and a control box and printer for the industrial monitoring system.

A health physics (HP) trailer equipped with an alpha and beta-gamma continuous air monitor, a radiation area monitor, and a portable power supply were purchased in FY-1979. Use of the trailer and equipment began in early FY 1980.

A firehose trailer was procured in FY 1980 to extend covering provided by the fire mains. The hose trailer contains 304.8 m of 10.2-cm hose, 91.4 m of 5.1-cm hose, and tools for connecting to fire hydrants.

6.3 Administration of the RWMC

Presently, the Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for radioactive waste management at the INEL, including that for the RWMC.

EG&G Idaho, Inc., currently has responsibility for the technical operation of the RWMC under contract with DOE.

Operating procedures at the RWMC are defined in three documents that have been standardized since 1978. These documents are:

1. Waste Programs Division Standard Practice, which deals with overall division policy.
2. Operations Project Directives, which defines the operational responsibilities and actions required by Waste Programs Division, RWMC Operations (WMPD-RO) Branch, personnel.
3. The RWMC Operations Branch Detailed Operating Procedure, which gives an in-depth procedure for examination, certification, storage and disposal operations.

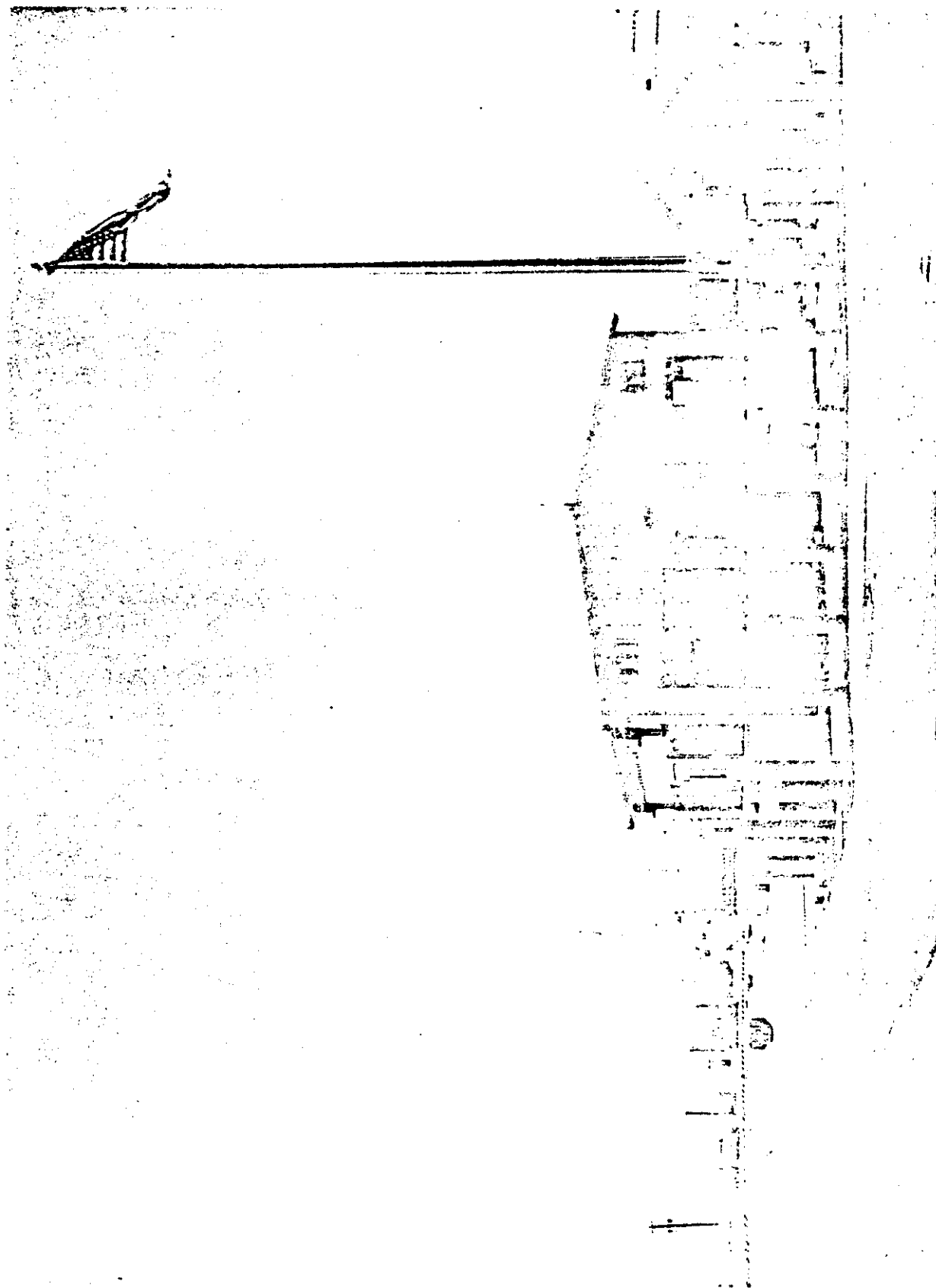


Figure 32. WMF-611, RWMC Guardhouse.

Major documentation for RWMC/SWEPP planning, safety, and operation are shown by administrative ranking in Figure 33 and are briefly described below:

RWMC Safety Assessment Document (PR-W-79-020)--The updated RWMC Safety Review Document (formerly TREE-1064) is an assessment of the safety of RWMC operations in accordance with DOE 0531. The document was approved by EG&G and DOE-ID.

RWMC Long Range Plan (PR-W-79-016)--A planning document for RWMC activities and overall direction through 1992 was issued to DOE-ID.

Work Package Proposal and Authorization Schedule (WPAS)--The WPAS provides the projected work packages and associated funding requirements for a five-fiscal-year period.

Current Year Work Plan--The Current Year Work Plan provides a detailed schedule for projects and capital equipment in the current fiscal year.

Waste Programs Manual--The training program requirements for RWMC personnel were formalized and approved by EG&G Waste Programs Division (WPD). The existing training activities were revised and upgraded to comply with the Waste Programs Manual requirements.

Quality Program Plan--A quality assurance program for the operation of the RWMC was issued and approved by EG&G WPD and the Quality Division. Implementation of the plan in FY 1980 satisfied DOE initial disposal criteria requirements for a quality assurance program.

Criteria for Packaging Radioactive Waste

The packaging criteria requirements for radioactive waste shipment to the RWMC were revised in February 1984 into two DOE-ID documents, one for TRU waste and a second for Low Level (beta-gamma) waste. The documents are:

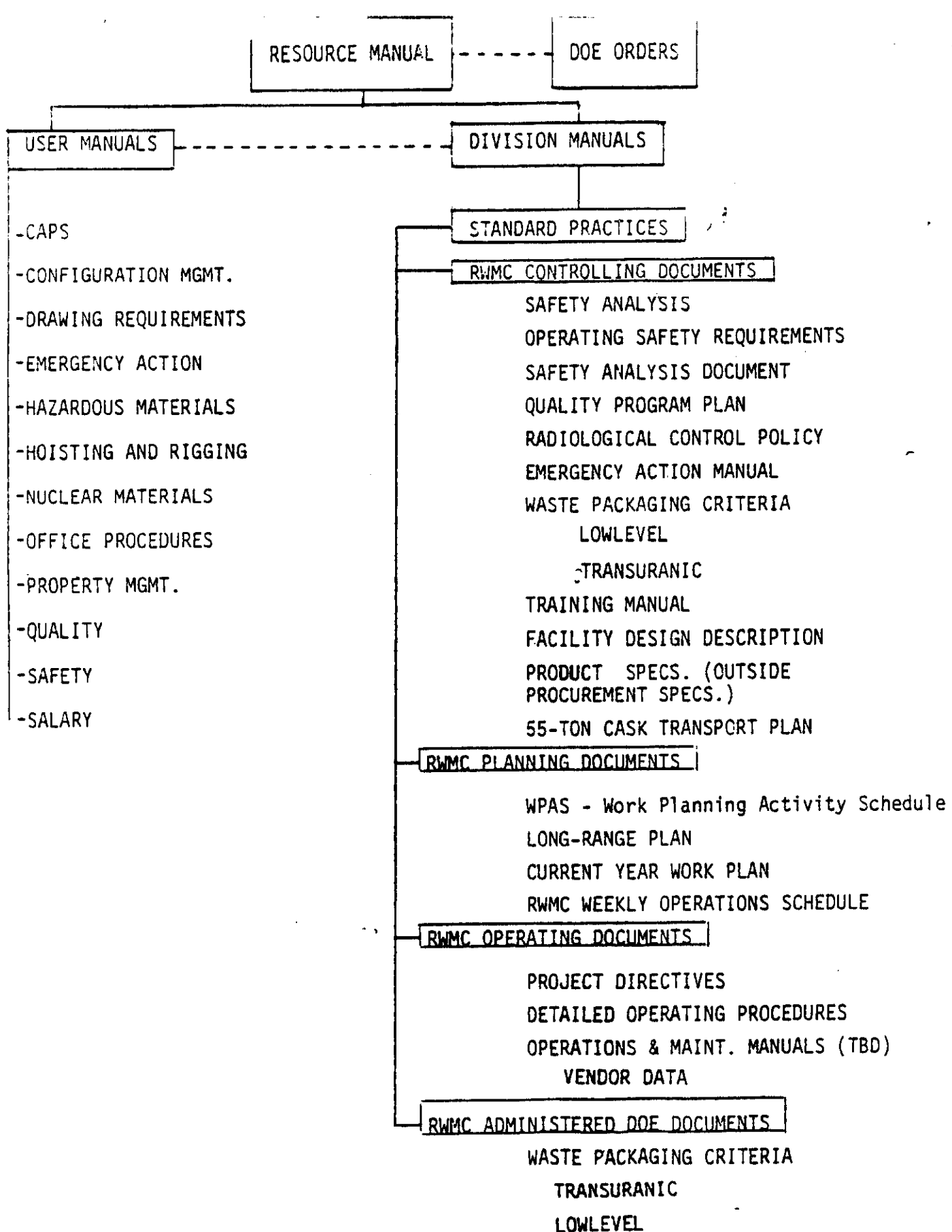


FIGURE 33. RWMC BRANCH DOCUMENTATION

1. Criteria for Packaging Transuranic Waste for Receipt at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Radioactive Waste Management Complex, IDO-10074, Rev. 2.^{69a}
2. Criteria for Packaging Low-Level, Radioactive Waste for Receipt at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Radioactive Waste Management Complex, DOE/ID-10112.^{69b} This document was revised, updated and reissued in March, 1985 as: INEL Low-Level Waste Acceptance Criteria, DOE/ID-10112, March, 1985.¹¹⁵

RWMC Facility Design Description (FDD)--The FDD, which was completed in FY 1982, provides, design detail and system descriptions of all RWMC systems, facilities, and equipment for general information, use in future projects or modifications, and as support for overall safety analysis of the RWMC.

RWMC Operational Safety Requirements (PR-W-79-024)--Completed in FY 1980, this document defines the safe boundaries, operating limits, and administrative controls required to ensure that RWMC operations constitute (a) no undue risks to the health and safety of employees and the public and (b) no undue hazard to the environment.

Operational Safety Requirements for the Stored Waste Examination Pilot Plant--Prepared in FY-1985. This document defines the safe boundaries, operating limits, and administrative controls for SWEPP.

Safety Analysis for the Radioactive Waste Management Complex at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory--Completed in FY 1982, this document provides a safety analysis of operations at the RWMC. It provides documentation and the basis for assessing the magnitudes of hazards. It documents that hazards have been identified and evaluated and that reasonable measures for their elimination, control, or mitigation have been considered.

Safety Analysis for the Stored Waste Examination Pilot Plant (SWEPP) at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory--This document provides the analysis and assessment of the safety of the SWEPP Operations in accordance with DOE Orders 5480.1A and 5481.1.

Radiological Control Plan for the Stored Waste Pilot Plant (SWEPP)
July, 1985.

Operation and Maintenance Manual (OM&M)--The OM&M will be a multi-volume manual, an individual volume for each major RWMC facility and piece of heavy equipment. The first volume completed was for the 45.4 metric ton cask.

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